GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Public Service – Revenue Department – Departmental proceedings against Sri N. Venkata Rao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam District – Departmental proceedings under Rule 20 of APCS (CCA) Rules, 1991 – Article of Charges – Issued.

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REVENUE (VIGILANCE.III) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 830 Dated: 04-08-2025

Read the following:-

1. From the DG, ACB, Rc.No.153/RCT-VSK/2023-S.12, Dated:23.10.2024.
2. From the DG, ACB, Rc.No.153/RCT-VSK/2023-S.12, Dated:17.07.2025.
3. GO Ms.No.265, Revenue (Vig.III) Department, dt.04.08.2025.

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O R D E R:

It is proposed to hold an enquiry against Sri N. Venkata Rao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam District in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the A.P.Civil Services (CC & A) Rules, 1991 for committing irregularities noticed by the Director General, Anti Corruption Bureau and was trapped on 15.12.2023.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of articles of charges (Annexure. I). A list of documents by which, and a list of witnesses by whom, the articles of charges are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexures. II, III & IV).

3. Sri N. Venkata Rao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam District is directed to submit within 10 days of the receipt of this order, a written statement of his defence.

4. Sri N. Venkata Rao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam District is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those Articles of Charges as are not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each Article of Charge.

5. Sri N. Venkata Rao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam District is further informed that if he does not submit his written statement of defence on or before the time specified in Para 3 above, further actions will be processed based on the material available.

6. Attention of Sri N. Venkata Rao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam District is invited to Rule 24 of the A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his/her interests in respect of matters pertaining to his/her service under the Government. If any representation is received on his/her behalf from any other person in respect of

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any matter dealt with in these proceedings it will be presumed that Sri N. Venkata Rao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam District is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his/her instance and action will be taken against him/her for violation of Rule 24 of A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G. JAYALAKSHMI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)

To
Sri N. Venkata Rao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam District ***through*** the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Mangalagiri.
The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Mangalagiri.

Copy to:

The Director General, Anti Corruption Bureau, AP, Vijayawada.
The District Collector, Srikakulam District.
Sf/Sc.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SO-2 SRI NADIGANTLA VENKATA RAO S/O LATE RAMARAO, TAHSILDAR, SRIKAKULAM MANDAL, O/o TAHSILDAR, SRIKAKULAM IN Cr. No 13/RCT-ACB/SKL/2023 OF ACB, SRIKAKULAM RANGE.

That Sri Nadigantla Venkatarao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam Mandal, O/o Tahsildar, Srikakulam Town, Srikakulam District (here-in- after referred as Government Servant) while function as such during the period between 20.11.2022 to 15.12.2023 (till the date of trap) committed grave misconduct in as much as.

Charge :-

As per circular of the CCLA's Ref. No.LR-II (1)/REV02-13/15/2022 dated.18.04.2022 from the Office of Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Vijayawada, it is clearly mentioned that Non-availability of the family member for recording statement shall not be a ground for rejecting the FMC and No rejection is allowed. But the Government Servant rejected the FMC application No: FMC231130058155 by violating the instructions issued in the CCLA's Ref. No.LR-II (1)/REV02-13/15/2022 dated.18.04.2022 of the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Vijayawada.

Thus, Sri Nadigatla Venkata Rao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam Mandal, Srikakulam District by his above mentioned acts exhibited lack of devotion to duty, failed to maintain integrity, behaved in a manner unbecoming of Government servant and brought down the prestige of the Government and there by violated the Rule 3(1) & (2) of APCS (conduct) Rules, 1964.

G JAYALAKSHMI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE –II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS OF MISCONDUCT IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI NADIGATLA VENKATA RAO S/O LATE RAMARAO TAHSILDAR, SRIKAKULAM MANDAL, O/O TAHSILDAR, SRIKAKULAM IN CR. NO. 13/RCT-ACB/SKL/2023 OF ACB, SRIKAKULAM RANGE.

Sri Nadigatla Venkata Rao S/o late Ramarao, Tahsildar Srikakulam Mandal, O/o Tahsildar, Srikakulam, Srikakulam District is a native of Laveru village, Srikakulam District. He joined in the Government Service on 08.04.1992 as Grade-3, Typist in Revenue Department, consequent he got promotion as Senior Assistant and Dy.Tahsildar. On 10.07.2021, he got promotion as Tahsildar and posted as Tahsildar, Srikakulam. His date of birth is 28.07.1967. He is due to retire on attaining the age of superannuation on 30.04.2058. He is here-in-after called as Government Servant (G.S.).

CHARGE- :-

As per circular of the CCLA's Ref. No.LR-II (1)/REV02-13/15/2022 dated.18.04.2022 from the Office of Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Vijayawada, it is clearly mentioned that Non-availability of the family member for recording statement shall not be a ground for rejecting the FMC and No rejection is allowed. But the Government Servant rejected the FMC application No: FMC231130058155 by violating the instructions issued in the CCLA's Ref. No.LR-II (1)/REV02-13/15/2022 dated.18.04.2022 of the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Vijayawada.

FACTS AND EVIDENCE:-

On 13.12.2023 at 14:00 hours, the complainant Sri Jafar Ghori came to the ACB office and submitted a written complaint stating that his marriage was performed with Rajiya Sulthana who is daughter of Mohammad Khan and Jareena Begum of Saibulathota, Srikakulam town. His father-in-law Mohammad Khan had worked as Constable in Excise Department and retired from service. On 07.11.2023, his father-in-law died. In order to get family pension in the name of his mother-in-law, family member certificate is needed. On behalf of his mother-in-law, he went to Ward Sachivalayam at Gonti Veedhi, Srikakulam town in the 3rd week of November and met Sri Muddada Jayakrishna Balaji, Ward Revenue Secretary. Then the Ward Revenue Secretary told him to bring affidavit and other connected papers with application form, to get Family Member Certificate. Accordingly, he filled application form in the name of his mother-in-law and handed over the same to Sri Jayakrishna Balaji, Ward Revenue Secretary, together with affidavit and other papers. Then the Ward Revenue Secretary demanded an amount of Rs. 6,000/- to process the application for issuing Family Member Certificate. Again, on 30.11.2023 afternoon, around 2:30 pm, he went to Ward Sachivalayam at Gonti Veedhi, met Sri Jayakrishna Balaji and requested to reduce the bribe amount. Upon which, the Ward Revenue Secretary reduced Rs.1,000/- and told him to pay an amount of Rs.5,000/- towards bribe so that he would complete the work. He recorded the voice conversation of Ward Revenue Secretary regarding demand of bribe, through his cell phone. He is not interested to pay the bribe amount. He informed the same to his mother-in-law who too, not interested to get the work completed, by paying the bribe amount. While so, on

13.12.2023 morning, he met Sri Jayakrishna Balaji at Ward Sachivalayam, Gonti Veedhi and enquired about his work. Then the Ward Revenue Secretary told him that he would ensure issuance of Family Member Certificate, only on payment of bribe amount of Rs.5000/-. The Ward Revenue Secretary further told him to bring the bribe amount to Ward Sachivalayam at Gonti Veedhi in one or two days. Hence, it is requested to take necessary action against Sri Muddada Jayakrishna Balaji, Ward Revenue Secretary for demanding bribe amount of Rs. 5,000/- for issuing Family Member Certificate to his mother-in-law. He will copy the voice conversation that took place in between himself and Sri Muddada Jayakrishna Balaji, into memory and hand over the same later.

After following the due procedure, the DSP, ACB, Srikakulam Range registered the complaint as a case in Cr.No.13/RCT-ACB/SKL/2023 U/s 7(a) of Prevention of Corruption (amendment) Act, 2018 on 15.12.2023 at 06:15 hrs and investigated into.

On 15.12.2023 at about 11.40 hrs, Sri Muddada Jayakrishna Balaji S/o Ramakrishna, Ward Revenue Secretary, 16th ward, Gonti Veedhi Sachivalayam, Srikakulam town and Srikakulam District was trapped when he further demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs.5,000/- as bribe from the complainant at ward Sachivalayam, 16th ward, Gonti Veedhi, Srikakulam Town.

During the course of post trap proceedings, the DSP ACB Srikakulam Range seized the following documents in the presence of official mediators. The details are as follows:

1) Check slip of enquiry officer for Family Member Certificate for application No. FMC231130058155 – one sheet.

2) Report of Revenue Inspector in a proforma, without his signature – One sheet

3) Original Statement of Jareena Begum recorded by VRO, Gonti Veedhi, Dated:30.11.2023 – One sheet

4) Original Panchanama drafted in the presence of five locals, by VRO, Gonti Veedhi, dated 30.11.2023 – One sheet.

5) Application form of Jareena Begum for 'Family Member Certificate' vide FMC231130058155 – one sheet.

6) Original Affidavit dated 20.11.2023 – Two sheets.

7) Copy of death certificate of Mohammad Khan – One sheet.

8) Copy of Aadhar card in respect of Mohammadh Khan vide No. 878407341134 – One sheet.

9) Copy of Aadhar card in respect of Jareena Begum vide No. 435906841585 – One sheet

10) Copy of Aadhar card in respect of Rajia Sultana Khanam vide No. 310591072855 – One sheet

11) Copy of Aadhar card in respect of Imran Khan vide No. 526868691858 – One sheet

12) Copy of Aadhar card in respect of Md.Azaruddin Khan vide No. 234892468555 – One sheet

13) Copies of Pension Payment Order of Mohammad Khan vide No.23-012897/S5P – Three sheets.

During post trap proceedings, the DSP secured Sri Ch. Rangaiah, Revenue Divisional Officer, Srikakulam.

On examination he stated that he is working as RDO, Srikakulam for 6 months. On 15.12.2023 afternoon, he came to know that Sri Muddada Jayakrishna Balaji, Ward Revenue Secretary, Gonti Veedhi, Ward Sachivalayam, Srikakulam Municipality was trapped by ACB officials for demanding and accepting bribe amount from a person for processing of Family member Certificate in the name Smt. Jereena Begum.

As per proceedings Rc. No 1475/2019/A, Dat 20/11/2019, Sri Muddada Jayarishna Balaji was appointed as Ward revenue Secretary, Ward Sachivalayam, Ward No 16, Gonti Veedhi, Srikakulam.

As per G.O. Ms. No 145 Revenue (Ser.II) Dept Dt: 25.04.2015. An application made through Meeseva, the Tahsildar, shall issue Family Member Certificate provided that there is no written objection from any other member of the family and on receipt of such application, the Tahsildar shall publish a seven days notice in the village/ward and after expiry of the notice period, the Tahsildar or any other office deputed by him shall conduct enquiry and recorded panchanama, based on which the Tahsildar shall either issue the certificate or reject the same and is final order of acceptance or rejection shall be given within 15 days from the date of receipt of application through meeseva.

The Revenue Department issues Family Member Certificate in terms of G.O.Ms.No.145, Services (III), Dt. 25thApril, 2015. This certificate is used to provide the family members information, where the head of the family is deceased. It is used for availing the benefits under Apathbhandu Scheme/Chief Minister relief fund/Housing, insurance claims, succession of financial assets and etc., and updation of records of properties.

- Where the family member's certificate in respect of a deceased individual was already issued, the same will be across the counter as a Cat-A service, as the FMC is the same for a decease individual.
- FMC will be issued as a Cat-A service, if the family is included in HHDB (House Hold Data Base).
- Since, the Aadhar Numbers of all the family members is being insisted upon at the time of applying for FMC, the recording of statement from each of the family members may not be insisted upon.

- Non-availability of the family member for recording the statement shall not be a ground for rejecting the FMC.
- In case a counter claim is filed to issue FMC, the recording of statements from neighbors/ village elders shall be mandatorily done.
- The work flow will be DA->VRO (3 days), MRI (2 days) >Tahsildar (5 days).
- The purpose of requesting the certificate may be recorded for a better understanding of the usage of Certificates.
- No Rejection is allowed regarding FMC.

One Smt. Jereena Begum, w/o Late Mohammad Khan (Retired Excise Constable who died on 07.11.2023) and applied for FMC on 30.11.2023 by Ward Education and Data Processing Secretary to Ward Revenue Secretary vide Transaction ID i.e., FMC 231130058155 from Gonti Veedhi Ward Sachivalayam, Srikakulam. Later, Ward Revenue Secretary forwarded the same to RI on 05.12.2023 by not recommending as Applicant was not available during field visit even though he visited and recorded the statements of Jerina Begum and other family members on 30.11.2023 and duly signed on those statements. Later, Revenue Inspector, forwarded the same to him without submitting any field enquiry report / statements of Jerina Begum and other family members. Basing on the Ward Revenue Secretary and RI's findings, without documents, he also rejected the same on 13.12.2023.

The Revenue Divisional officer, Srikakulam furnished the information to Anti-Corruption Bureau, Srikakulam through letter in Rc.No 17/2024/F, Dt 25.01.2024 for procedure for issuing family member certificate and service particulars of Government Servants.

FAMILY MEMBER CERTIFICATE:-

The Service:- The Revenue Department issues Family Member Certificate in terms of G.O.Ms.No.145, Services.(III), Dt. 25thApril, 2015. This certificate is used to provide the family members information, where the head of the family is deceased. It is used for availing the benefits under Apathbhandu Scheme/Chief Minister relief fund/Housing, insurance claims, succession of financial assets and etc., and updation of records of properties.

Instructions:-

- Where the family members certificate in respect of a deceased individual was already issued, the same will be across the counter as a Cat-A service, as the FMC is the same for a decease individual.
- FMC will be issued as a Cat-A service, if the family is included in HHDB (House Hold Data Base).
- Since, the Aadhar Numbers of all the family members is being insisted upon at the time of applying for FMC, the recording of statement from each of the family members may not be insisted upon.
- Non-availability of the family member for recording the statement shall not be a ground for rejecting the FMC.
- In case a counter claim is filed to issue FMC, the recording of statements from neighbors/ village elders shall be mandatorily done.

- The work flow will be DA->VRO (3 days), MRI (2 days) >Tahsildar (5 days).
- The purpose of requesting the certificate may be recorded for a better understanding of the usage of Certificates.
- No Rejection is allowed regarding FMC.

The DSP made the copy of the circular of the CCLA's Ref.No.LR-II (1)/REV02-13/15/2022 dated.18.04.2022 from the Office of Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Gollapudi, Vijayawada, into a file and seized the same duly attested by the mediators and the DSP.

Thus, the Govt. Servant Sri Nadigantla Venkata Rao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam by the above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of Govt. Servant and brought down the prestige of the Govt. Servant and thereby contravened Rule 3(1) & 3(2) of A.P.C.S. (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Thus the Government Servant Sri Nadigantla Venkata Rao, Tahsildar, Srikakulam has rendered himself for regular departmental enquiry for major penalty under Rule 20 of APCS (CCA) Rules, 1991.

G JAYALAKSHMI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF ORAL EVIDENCE:

The following oral evidence is available on record.

1) Sri Bhyri Praveen, S/o Nagabhusana Rao, age 41 years, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Veterinary Dispensary, Srikurmam, Gara Mandal, Srikakulam, R/o Bhyri Singupuram, Srikakulam Rural Mandal, Srikakulam District. Cell No. 8309804535:

He is the 1st mediator and speaks about the contents of mediators report-I & II dated 15.12.2023, and etc, facts.

2) Sri Gandubilli Venkata Ramana, S/o Trinadh, age 31 years, Veterinary Assistant, Veterinary Dispensary, Lolugu, Ponduru Mandal, Srikakulam District, R/o Dallavalasa Village, Ponduru Mandal, Srikakulam District. Cell No. 9959289594:

He is the 2nd mediator and speaks about the contents of mediators report-I & II, dated:15.12.2023, and etc., facts.

3) Sri Jafar Ghori, S/o late Mohammad Ghori, age 51 years, Gonti Veedhi, Srikakulam Town, Srikakulam District:-

He is the complainant, who speaks about the facts of demand of bribe amount of Rs.5,000/- by the A.O and he recorded the call conversation of A.O in his mobile phone and got copied the voice clip into the memory card and also speak about the contents of pre-trap and post-trap proceedings to the extent concerning to him, giving his statement u/s 164 Cr.P.C. before the Honourable Addl. Judicial Magistrate of 1st Class, Srikakulam on 23.12.2023 and he deposed reiterating the contents of the complaint and his participation in the pre-trap and post-trap proceedings concerning to him etc facts. On further examination he stated that, after the trap of Ward Revenue Secretary Sri Muddada Jayakrishna Balaji, his mother in law Family Member certificate was processed by the Revenue authorities of Srikakulam, a message was received to that effect and he handed over the xerox copy of the Family Member Certificate to the ACB authorities duly signed on the receipt etc., facts.

4).Sri Ch. Rangaiah, Revenue Divisional Officer, Srikakulam: To speak about procedure in issuing family member certificate and furnishing the information through his letter in Rc. No:17/2024/F, Dt:25.01.2024, O/o Revenue Divisional officer, Srikakulam.

5).Sri B.V.V.S.Ramana Murthy, DSP, ACB, Srikakulam Range:-To speak his received a report from Sri Jaffar Ghori against the Sri Muddada Jaya Krishna Balaji and it is registered a case in Crime No.13/RCT-ACB-SKL/2023 on 15.12.2023 and lay trap against the AO and his investigation and etc., facts.

6). Sri S.V.Ramana, Inspector of Police, ACB, Srikakulam Range:- To speak about his further investigation and sending DACs against the Government Servant and etc., facts.

Any further witness is required, he/she will be produced at the time of enquiry.

G JAYALAKSHMI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE- IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS EVIDENCE:

1) Complaint dated 13.12.2023 given by the complainant.

It reveals the facts of the demand of bribe amount of Rs.5,000/- by the A.O for doing an official favor and etc., facts.

2) FIR in Cr. No. 13/RCT-ACB/SKL/2023 dated:15.12.2023

It reveals that a complaint was received from the complainant about the demand for a bribe and registration of the case against the A.O.

3) Mediators Report-I: It reveals the pre-trap happenings Dt.15.12.2023

4) Mediators Report-II: It reveals the post-trap happenings Dt.15.12.2023.

5) Made up file-1 containing the application of the mother in law of the complainant, copies of affidavit and other papers seized from the possession of the A.O during the post trap proceedings 16 sheets.

It clearly shows that the A.O kept pending the official favour file with him for demand of bribe for process Family Member Certificate in the name of mother in law of complainant.

6) Made up file-2 containing Screen Shots of the accused officer with regard to messages and calls Made to the complainant 02 sheets.

It shows that the conversation made by the A.O to the complainant.

7) Made up file-3 containing the screen shots of the complainant with regard to messages and calls made of the complainant by the AO- 02 sheets.

It shows that the conversation and message sent by the A.O to the complainant and etc.

8) Made up file-4 containing print out of the transactions details vide I.D. FMC 231130058155 (one sheet)

It shows the AO rejected the application of mother in law of complainant as he did not pay bribe amount.

9) Made up file-5 containing the circular vide CCLA, ref No. LR (II)/REVE-13/15/2022 dt. 18.4.2022 of the office of Chief Commissioner land Administration AP, Gollapudi, Vijayawada- 02 sheets.

It shows that the guidelines for issuance of Family member certificate and etc.

10. Copy of Part-II statements of Witnesses 3 to 4 as per Annexure-III of DAC's:

Any further document is required; it will be produced at the time of enquiry.

G JAYALAKSHMI
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SECTION OFFICER